

East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)
Eastern Montgomery Regional Center
3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Wednesday, November 7, 2018

MEETING SUMMARY

Members Present: Samantha Blizzard, Jerold Samet, Kristina McConnell, Kenneth Flemmer, Donald Hague, Hildegard Sylla, Christopher Bolton, William Bentley, Margruetta Hall, Kimberly Price-Evans, Richard Romer, Sharon Brown, Wendy Johnson, Fisseha Adugna, Pamela Ruiz, Elisse Barnes, Rischard Romer.

Guests Present: Vikki Garcia, Craig Wilson, Officer Monique Thompkins, Mark Pharaoh, Margaret Poore, Dan Wilhelm, Harriett Quinn, Margie Goergen-Rood, Ed Weiler, Goyer Roberts, Mensah Adjogah, Lee Yaffe-Stark, Shane Davis-Cook,

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh, Linda Cooper

Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Community Comments: Guests and members of the community introduced themselves and a few made comments on community issues.

Approval of the October 3, 2018 Meeting Summary: A motion was made to approve the October 3, 2018 meeting summary. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation by Special Guests: A presentation was made by Christopher Conklin, Deputy Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) with assistance from Corey Pitts from MCDOT. The presentation provided an overview of the following areas with specific focus on East County:

- FY 19/20 Resurfacing Program
- Upcoming CIP Projects including Good Hope Road Sidewalk and Old Columbia Pike, Stewart to Cherry Hill for FY 19/20
- US 29 Corridor Updates including Flash BRT, the US 29 Mobility and Reliability Study, and the Industrial/Tech Interchange
- 2018 USDOT Build Grant Application for the White Oak Science Gateway Redevelopment totaling \$74,340,000 (Federal BUILD Funds-\$25,000,000 plus County Contribution-\$49,340,000)
- Hillandale LATIP Update with additional traffic calming options
- Tiger Grant funding request
- Hillandale Local Area Transportation Improvement Program Open House on November 8, 6:30 p.m. at the White Oak Recreation Center
- Public Hearing on November 15, 7:00 p.m. at the White Oak Recreation Center

- The community may sign up/submit testimony on the Hillandale LATIP to Stacy Leach via email – stacy.leach@montgomerycountymd.gov
- Testimonies on the Hillandale LATIP will be accepted through November 16, 5:00 p.m.
- Corey Pitts, MCDOT MCDOT Bus Rapid Transit Program Manager addressed questions regarding the type of buses to be purchased for the US 29 Bus Rapid Transit System (i.e. cost-driven, fuel, electric); if this project will engage the community beyond the open house and public hearing, safety of bus stop locations, schedule, fare, number of buses on the route, completing a previous study to address concerns around the project, conditions of the White Oak transit center, the efficacy of BRT on route 29, and impact on local taxes.

ECCAB Sub-Committees Chairs for Planning/Economic Development and Quality of Life

Updates: Elisse Barnes reported that there was a joint committee meeting that covered committee priorities, the job fair, and the upcoming report from Peter Fosselman from the Viva White Oak project. Jewru Bandeh reported on job fair stats:

- 65 employers participated
- 750 job seekers registered on-line and on-site
- Adventist Healthcare and US Federal Drug Administration recruitment tables had longest lines
- Jewru Bandeh addressed questions around how many people were hired—a follow-up survey will be completed to determine the number

Montgomery County Police: Lt. Monique Thompkins, 3rd District gave a brief overview on public safety comparing average 2016 statistics to 2018 including:

- IDA Sector 1:
 - Robberies: 2016 - 37, 2018 - 27
 - Burglaries: 2016 – 79, 2018 - 57
 - Theft from vehicles: Perpetrators are teaming up. A video caught 7 people working together to check for unlocked vehicles. It is important to lock vehicles at all times, especially during the holiday season with increased shopping.
- IDA Sector 2:
 - Robberies: 2016 - 4, 2018 - 5
 - Assaults: 2016 - 20, 2018 - 16
 - Burglaries: 2016 – 11, 2018 - 4
 - Theft from vehicles – 2016 – 12, 2018 - 21
 - Lt. Thompkins advised the only other major trend is theft from unlocked houses. She encouraged residents to secure doors to house. Burglars check for unlocked doors and reach in to take keys, purses, and wallets.
 - There have been challenges related to downtown bars staying open late (until around 3 a.m.)

- Lt. Thompkins addressed questions around tire theft, time trends for burglaries (burglars usually strike between 2-5 a.m.), police staffing, updates, and call-ins. She also advised to be leery of leaving cars running to warm up (i.e. in the snow).

Montgomery County Council Report: Brian Anleu of Councilmember Tom Hucker's office discussed the shooting that took place on WSSC property on Crum Road in Burtonsville. The shooting was on private property and determined to be legal—the resident is hunting and trapping animals. The boundary where shooting can take place is being amended with assistance from Tom Hucker, Councilmember, District 5 and Commander William Montgomery. This issue is up for hearing in December. Lt. Monique Thompkins addressed the shooting as well—assured all permits are valid. The location is off of U.S. Route 29.

Craig Wilson of Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office reported that on November 14, 2018 there will be a full Council meeting with the Council's Public Safety Committee, State Highway Administration and Montgomery County Public Schools to address traffic along state roads. Live stream will be available for those unable to attend in person. About a month ago there was an accident on New Hampshire that injured students waiting a school bus. The county is exploring solutions to improve safety on state roads, such as increasing patrols, installing speed cameras and reducing speed limits. Since June, the committee has identified a few short-term strategies.

New Business:

- Jewru Bandeh discussed the need to establish an (ECCAB) ad-hoc committee to start planning the next ECCAB Leadership Summit, which occurs every 4-5 years. The committee will determine and present what the priorities recommendations for East County should be over the next 5 years. The committee is aiming to hold the summit sometime in 2019. Members volunteering to serve on the committee were: Richard Romer, Samantha Blizzard, Elisse Barnes and Kristina McConnell.
- A new chair is needed for the Planning and Economic Development Committee
- A combined (two) committee meeting was approved to include discussion on the Hillandale LATIP.
- A hearing for the proposal to build a drive-through in the Burtonsville Town Center Shopping Center is November 8, 2018. The public notice was distributed.

Old Business:

- Pamela Ruiz advised Cloverly community members brought up illegal U-turns on Next Door. Spencerville Adventist School drivers make the U-turn at the intersection of 198 and Peach Orchard (8-8:30 a.m., and dismissal). Lt. Thompkins took note of it.
- Jewru Bandeh took a tally of Board members to determine best times to complete the county tour (Mon-Fri or Sat/Sun)
- The Board was involved with discussion around new single-housing being built in the parking lot of the Regional Center. The main entrance and exit to the Center will be closed during construction (will take 18-24 months). This will take place at the same time as the BRT station on the corner (will take 3-6 months). There is a security and parking plan in place.

Additional New Business: Richard Romer briefly brought up problems he encountered during the mid-term/general elections and suggested that there needs to be improvements in the voting/elections process. In early voting he experienced long lines, inadequate staffing, and inadequate machines. He suggested writing a letter to the executive and volunteered to take the lead.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.